Meeting Objectives

1. Develop an Understanding of Collaborative Learning
2. Background and Present conditions
3. Identify issues and interests related to Wyoming Mule Deer Herd
4. Collaboratively determine next steps

Main Points Group 1 – Mark Gocke, Facilitator

1. Habitat Quality – Fragmentation
2. Quality of the hunting experience (control hunter numbers, esp first few days)
3. Better communication and cooperation between the management agencies and landowners/permittees
4. Roadkill – more underpasses

Group 1 Notes – Concerns and Interests

- More law enforcement (GF, BLM, USFS)
- More archery hunting opportunity (ie August 15 opener)
- Muzzleloader only season
- Habitat quality – fragmentation
- Bucks only hunting
- Quality of the hunting experience (control hunter numbers, esp first few days)
- New antler regulation had and effect
- Utilize energy revenue to benefit wildlife (enforcement, habitat improvements)
- Backcountry ATV use is expanding and growing, negatively affecting deer herd and hunting experience
- Fire suppression has negatively affected habitat (let wildfires burn and use prescriptive burns)
- Forest thinning could help habitat
- Endangered Species Act prevents many habitat improvement opportunities, (ie Lynx)
- Habitat is truly limiting and need more public awareness of this vs. hunting
- Better communication and cooperation between the management agencies and landowners/permittees
- Herd objective should be commensurate with available habitat and if not, need to explain why
- Focus hunting pressure possibly by instituting regionalized hunting similar to non-residents
• Roadkill – more underpasses

Main Points Group 2 – Jessica Clement, Facilitator

1. Better Habitat = Better Bucks
2. Winter and Summer Range improvement
3. Highway Mortality – more under and over passes
4. Law Enforcement
5. Research on predation, for example number of predators and their effect on the deer herd

Group 2 Notes – Concerns and Interests
• Loss of habitat quality
  o Lack of fire
  o Habitat treatments bigger – 1-2 million acres
  o Winter and summer range – more treatments
• Highway Mortality
  o More tunnels
  o Over and under passes
  o Speed limit enforcement – night and winter
• Motorized vehicle use impact on habitat quality
  o Enforcement, atvs and motorcycles creating trails in unauthorized areas
  o Don’t open more trails to atv use
  o Maybe close some
  o Focus on enforcement
• Better guidelines and enforcement for outfitters
  o Too many clients per outfitter allowed
  o Impacts on size of the mule deer herd
  o Impacts on habitat and wilderness
  o Better management of outfitters
• Federal land management agencies should manage management stipulations better, especially in winter range, eg BLM
• Enforce management on winter range, closures by agencies
• Ignorance and apathy of the average hunter
• Antler hunting should be better enforced – catch more people
• Season management – be open to different ideas
  o Buck only
  o Season lengths
  o Season times
• More age-class managed areas
• More opportunities for youth hunters
• Value general tag area
• Tunnels and sage junction are great
• Overgrazing by livestock a concern
• Predator control
Main Points Group 3 – Daryl Lutz, Facilitator

1. Habitat – winter especially – sustainability of the herd
2. Preserve/enhance hunting opportunity and quality – too many hunters on opening dates
3. Non-hunting-related deaths

Group 3 Notes – Concerns and Interests

- Preserve, manage and enhance critical winter and summer habitat – especially winter
- Mule deer over population – establish a more realistic population objective carrying capacity
- Increase habitat – potential for more deer
- Misunderstanding of herd unit boundaries people concerned about issues in other herd units
- Need to preserve and enhance hunting opportunities
- Early opening date to entice hunters to the Wyoming Range = TOO MANY HUNTERS which is affecting hunt quality
- Provide more information about hunt demand, hunter #s etc
- Highway collisions with deer
- Habitats affected by succession, grazing, development, oil/gas exploration – Need to manage these better!
- Oil and gas permits easier to get on state lands
- Despite good habitat conditions, effects of wolves will be damaging
- Private land owners need to be involved in mule deer management
- BLM, USFS and State need to be involved

BIN

- How do we get non-resident input?

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Evaluation

PLUS (positive aspects)

- Presentations – good content
- Free snacks!
- WGFD the best at reaching out to the public compared to other state Game and Fish agencies
- Opportunity to participate
- Film

DELTA (things that could be changed)

- Move small groups further apart – too loud
- Better speakers for the film
- Advertising the meetings
  - Posters at Post offices
  - NGOS to send notice to members
- Provide opportunity to write concerns on a form and provide to small group facilitators